



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331
Telephone: (626) 458-5100
<http://dpw.lacounty.gov>

GAIL FARBER, Director

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
P.O. BOX 1460
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

February 12, 2013

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**REQUEST FOR A STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE
AS-NEEDED EMERGENCY DEBRIS REMOVAL SERVICES PROGRAM
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

This action is to authorize the resumption of the Request for a Statement of Qualifications for the As-Needed Emergency Debris Removal Services Program to manage and cleanup debris on the County rights of way in the event of a disaster with costs that exceed \$100 million.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

Authorize the Director of Public Works or her designee to resume the Request for a Statement of Qualifications for the As-Needed Emergency Debris Removal Services Program.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The purpose of the recommended action is to resume the solicitation of a Request for a Statement of Qualifications (RFSQ) for contractors that could potentially carry out the cleanup of debris from the County rights of way, Los Angeles County Flood Control District rights of way, and any specified location within the borders of Los Angeles County, including city road rights of way where emergency debris removal is required in the event of a major disaster, such as an earthquake, when those costs are expected to exceed \$100 million.

On June 19, 2012, Item 48, the Board authorized the award of ten contracts for as-needed emergency debris removal services in an annual aggregate program sum of \$25 million.

Additionally, a motion by Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas was adopted that requested a report from the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) as to whether a procurement process would be beneficial to identify contractors based on their qualifications that would be available to perform debris removal services if there was a projected clean-up cost of over \$100 million.

The CEO and the Department of Public Works (Public Works) came to the conclusion, after reviewing the guidelines issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, that it would be beneficial to develop a list of qualified as-needed contractors that could perform debris removal work for an event with a projected clean-up cost in excess of \$100 million. Consequently, RFSQs have been issued. We have subsequently suspended the deadline for proposers to submit their responses pending authorization from the Board to resume the solicitation.

Once the RFSQs are evaluated on a pass/fail basis, Public Works will develop the list of qualified contractors. After a future disaster event with projected clean-up costs in excess of \$100 million, Public Works would send out a bid request as authorized by the Board to all of the qualified contractors which would include a specific work description and price sheets that have an identified quantity of debris, by type, to be removed along with additional requirements for the bids to be considered responsive and responsible. Some of the additional requirements may include, but are not limited to, submission of sealed bid prior to established deadline, bid bonds, performance bonds, payment bonds, and required/optional percentage utilization of small businesses.

The justification for issuing an RFSQ to generate a list of qualified contractors is that the County is ensuring that:

- Bids are ultimately coming from contractors that are fully capable and best qualified to perform the work.
- A financial commitment in excess of \$100 million is not being made at this time. Rather, this encumbrance of contract authority would not be made until the scope is fully identified and authorized by the Board. Such an authorization would only be possible after the future disaster event.
- The qualified contractors that ultimately receive a bid request will have agreed in advance that they will comply with all Federal, State, and local contracting requirements.
- Competition amongst the qualified contractors will yield the most cost effective contract amount.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The Countywide Strategic Plan directs the provisions of Operational Effectiveness (Goal 1), Fiscal Responsibility (Goal 2), and Integrated Services Delivery (Goal 3). Identifying contractors who have the specialized expertise to provide these services accurately, efficiently, timely, and in a responsive manner as evidenced by meeting minimum specified qualifications will support Public Works in responding to a future large scale disaster event.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There will be no impact to any County fund at this time. Rather, Public Works would be seeking the Board's authorization to enter into a contract(s) with the qualified contractors after a future disaster event with a projected clean-up cost over \$100 million. These contracts would then be awarded to the qualified responsible contractor that presents the lowest responsive bid in response to a future bid request.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Identifying qualified contractors will allow Public Works to ensure timely response to workload requirements during a future disaster. After a list of qualified contractors is identified, and when work is identified, Public Works will issue a bid request. A sample of the bid request is included in the RFSQ.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The recommended action is not a project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it is an activity that is excluded from the definition of a project by Section 15378(b) of the CEQA Guidelines. The proposed action, to resume the solicitation of a qualified list of as-needed contractors for anticipated future projects, is an administrative activity of government, which will not result in direct or indirect changes to the environment. We will return to the Board as necessary for consideration of appropriate environmental documentation pursuant to CEQA prior to commencement of any activities of the qualified contractors that may constitute a project.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

On December 24, 2012, Public Works issued an RFSQ to solicit proposals from contractors and community business enterprises interested in performing the work. The proposals, once received, will be evaluated on a pass/fail basis using minimum qualifications that are stated in the RFSQ. Also, a notice of the RFSQ was placed on the County's bid website, and an advertisement was placed in the Los Angeles Times.

On January 24, 2013, Public Works issued a notice that the RFSQ has been suspended.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The creation of a list of qualified contractors will provide for a more streamlined contracting process for emergency debris removal services.

CONCLUSION

Please return one adopted copy of this letter to the Department of Public Works.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

2/12/2013

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gail Farber".

GAIL FARBER

Director

GF:WJW:ad

c: Chief Executive Office (Rita Robinson)
County Counsel
Executive Office